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IC Reg.
Intelligence
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DCI/IC 75-0520

30 January 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Associate Deputy to the D/DCI/IC
MPRRD -

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SUBJECT : Comments on the National SIGINT Plan

1. Reference is the request for CS comments on the National SIGINT Plan (forwarded by memorandum, USIB/IRAC-S-9.4/26, dated 16 January 1975) and the accompanying JCS memorandum to the Director NSA/CSS, "National SIGINT Plan," dated 9 January 1975.

2. From discussion at the IC Staff meeting of 22 January, I understand that comments as to specific revisions in the present document are not desired but that focus should be on general observations and identification of changes or additions which would improve the next revision of the paper, expected to take place late this year.

3. The following general comments are based on my view that, over all, the National SIGINT Plan is a commendable effort.

a. It is the first publication, to my knowledge, which seeks to describe, explain and forecast the National SIGINT effort over a five-year period. The requirement for such a plan gets emphasis from the fact that SIGINT activities represent such a major portion of total resource and manpower use in the Intelligence Community.

b. The completion of this plan puts additional focus on the desirability for comparable planning in other areas of intelligence--i.e., imagery and HUMINT. The plans themselves should be sufficiently comparable in organization, approach and scope that meaningful overall evaluations can be made.

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c. Ideally, a National Intelligence Strategy for the 1980s should have preceded such plans, but since the plans are being prepared first, they can provide basis for the development of an intelligence strategy for the future.

d. There is need to fit major documents such as the National SIGINT Plan into the "family" of guidance documents which the DCI is sponsoring--the "Perspectives," annual "Objectives," sets of "KIQs," the DCID 1/2 priorities. Annual revision of documents such as the National SIGINT Plan should be time-phased to appear after the planners have had an opportunity to review new versions of the other documents. Present plans call for revision of DCID 1/2 in the January-February period, the "Objectives" and the "Perspectives" in February-March, the KIQs in late spring--so, annual revision of the projected plans for SIGINT, imagery and HUMINT logically would be developed in the late summer-early fall period.

e. Plans such as this one on SIGINT can provide important support to the DCI in his efforts to explain and rationalize the overall US intelligence program to the President and the Congress.

4. The following suggestions are offered for future revisions of the SIGINT Plan. In making them I am assuming the "Perspectives," "Objectives," "KIQs," and DCID 1/2 remain essentially the same in concept as at present.

a. Although the SIGINT Plan is not a program document nor a detailed systems design plan, it would be desirable in future revisions to include a rather detailed financial impact statement on alternative courses of action outlined in the plan.

b. The plan should set forth a full rationale underlying the expected information gains from alternative SIGINT systems in various alternative mixes.

c. The plan should link each major SIGINT objective to the DCI objective which it supports.

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d. The target signal environment should address the specific major geographic areas identified in the DCI's "Perspectives."

5. Consideration should be given to addition of the following:

a. An appendix which outlines SIGINT commitments resulting from the current year KIQ Strategy Reports which will have an impact on SIGINT operations in the period beyond the present year.

b. An appendix which identifies the milestones, by fiscal year, for accomplishment of each of the major objectives.

c. A consolidated treatment of the SIGINT aspects of the national/tactical in intelligence interface problem.

d. A rather specific description of any problem areas and expected improvements in the SIGINT contribution to strategic warning and to the "small-w" warning problem.

e. A description of any system design or interface problems which must be dealt in connection with the WWMCCS Project.

f. A report on significant SIGINT R&D projects, and the expected impact which accomplishment of these projects will have on capabilities described in the plan.

6. The issues raised by the JCS, on which I consider no comment from me is called for, will have to be addressed directly in future revisions of the plan. I consider it interesting that the JCS comments reflect no concern with respect to DCI involvement in Community-wide planning which so deeply involves Department of Defense resources.



Chief,
Coordination Staff, ICS

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